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OCT 25 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re Application of: :
N. Tajima et al. : Art unit: 2861
Serial No. 09/406,244 :
Filed: September 24, 1999 :
For: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS
_____ x

DECLARATION

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

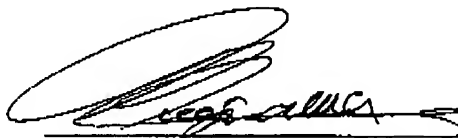
I, Masahiro SUGISAWA hereby declare and say as follows:

I am familiar with both the English and Japanese languages and I have compared the annexed English translation with the Japanese text of Japanese Patent Application No. 281466/1998.

To the best of my knowledge and belief, the annexed English translation is an accurate translation of the above Japanese application.

The undersigned declares further that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like

so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the U.S. Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the above-identified application or any patent issuing thereon.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Masahiro Sugisawa', is written over a horizontal line.

Masahiro SUGISAWA

Dated: This 12th day of July, 2004.